

# EVENING GRAPHIC

True Stories  
Sports Features

Inspirational—Entertaining—Informative  
**MAGAZINE SECTION**

Human Interest  
Children's Page

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## MRS. HALL'S AMAZING POISE ASCRIBED TO BLOOD OF KINGS

Slain Pastor's Widow,  
Wed to Follow Family  
Tradition, Traces Line  
Back to the Conqueror

**W**HO is Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall? What is the life history of this mysterious woman, accused of the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall of New Brunswick, N. J., and his choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills?

Almost from the moment, nearly four years ago, that the bodies of the couple were found under a crabapple tree on the Phillips farm, the widow's personality has been a riddle which none seemed able to solve.

It has remained for George Dowling Love, editor, expert genealogist, himself a Mayflower descendant, and vice-president of Monmouth County Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, to reveal her as probably the most distinguished woman, from the standpoint of ancient lineage, ever to be accused of murder in America.

By following the series of articles he has written exclusively for this newspaper, readers will better understand the character of Mrs. Hall and her amazing attitude of poise under fire. The articles, of which this is the first, will give a detailed history of her family.

By George Dowling Love

**T**HE veil of mystery which has enshrouded the early history of Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall and baffled investigators has been lifted by an investigation of the records of a dim and distant past.

This lonely widow who has suffered untold miseries with the uncomplaining spirit and quiet fortitude of a gentlewoman has been generally recognized as a paragon of culture and refinement.

A woman of considerable means, she was noted for her many acts of charity and her kindness to people of inferior station. Her devotion to the Episcopal Church, in which she was brought up, has always been marked.

### Remarkable Personality

Since the double crime which shocked not only the people of New Brunswick but of the entire state and nation, Mrs. Hall has remained in seclusion. Her self-possession has been remarkable. Despite the terrible blow to her pride in the discovery that her husband had doubtless been unfaithful to her, Mrs. Hall has maintained a calm exterior. She has seemed a stranger to emotion, giving the impression thereby to the unthinking that she was a hard woman and possessed of strongly marked masculine characteristics.

What tumult may be raging in her breast, however, is probably known only to herself and her Maker.

### Hides Emotions

That she will ever reveal to the gaze of the curious the emotions which have tormented her during the past four years seems

out of the question, in view of her known pride and abhorrence of anything coarse or vulgar.

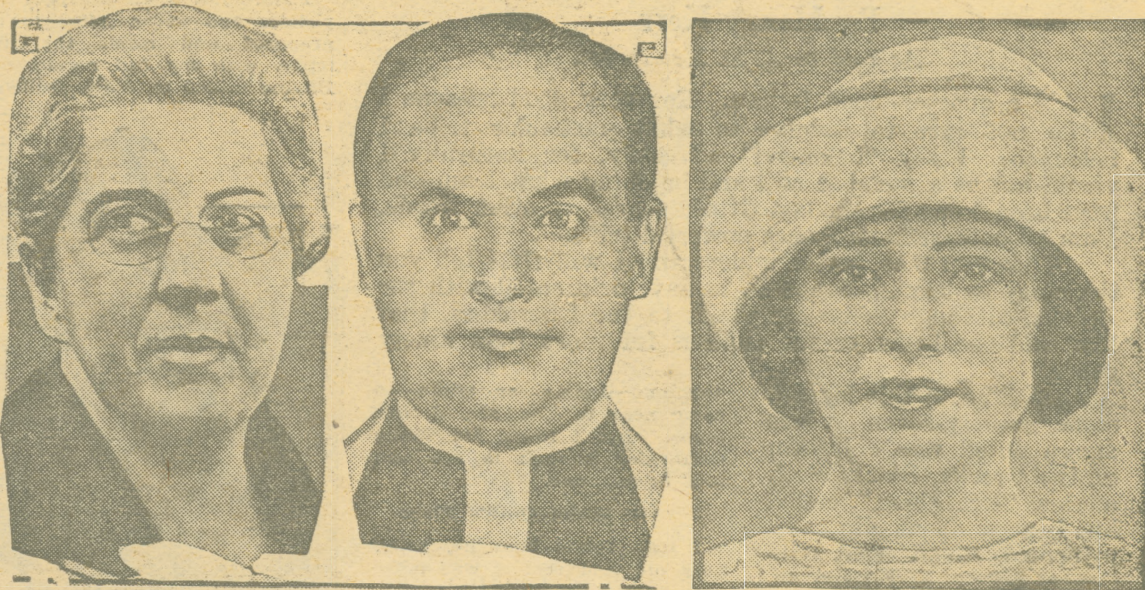
This woman, Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall, though reared in an atmosphere of refinement and religious observances and a constant church attendant throughout her entire life, stands charged with the slaying of her faithless husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and his innamorata, constant companion and perhaps temptress, the pretty but weak willed Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills. Like a modern Helen of Troy, friends of the deceased clergyman fain would believe, Mrs. Mills lured him to destruction by the fascinating cadences of an unusually rich and sympathetic voice.

### Her Revolutionary Ancestor

Details of the crime, the crudescence of which may have a far reaching effect upon the fortunes of more than one leading New Jersey politician, need no recapitulation here.

It might be illuminating, however, to call attention to the apparent significance attaching to the finding of the bodies beneath an apple tree, the apple being regarded as the forbidden fruit, for partaking of which Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

This article will have to do



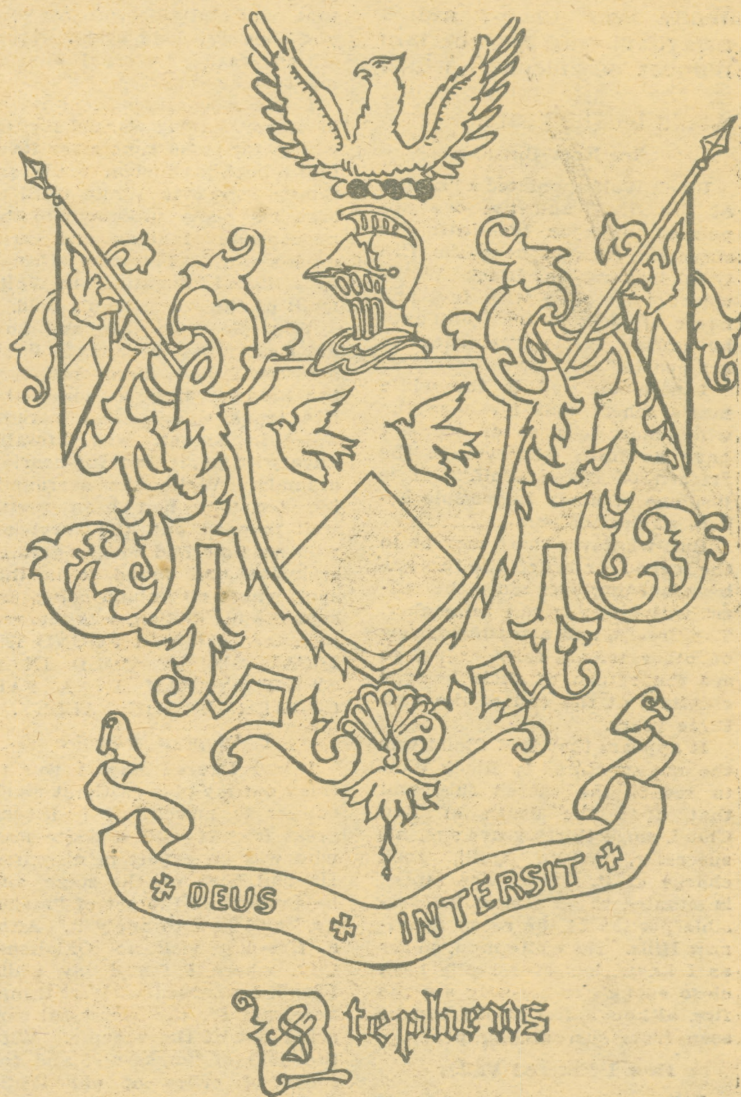
not so much with the crime as with the leading actors in the mysterious drama that fatal night. The story about to be unfolded is one of blood and tears—a tale the proper telling of which might well tax the ingenuity of an Edgar Allan Poe, a Conan Doyle, a Rudyard Kipling, or any of the world's most famous portrayals of human emotion.

Mrs. Hall's great-grandfather served as an officer and aide to Gen. Lafayette in the War of the American Revolution.

During the War of 1812, he commanded the New York militia, rising to the rank of major general in the service of his country. He also took an active part in the political affairs of his day and served in the New York assembly and upon the Board of Aldermen of New York city.

Other relatives of this unfortunate woman, against whom the state's case is so fragile that she has been released under the com-

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The three principal figures in the Hall tragedy are shown at top (left to right), Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, slain with him. Mrs. Hall's interesting family coat-of-arms is depicted above. At lower left is George Dowling Love, genealogist and author of this article.